

Please amend the claims as follows:

In the claims:

1-13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a composition, comprising the step of: combining a therapeutic agent, a polymer having host and/or guest functionality, and a complexing agent to form the composition, wherein said polymer and said agent form a particulate composite and said polymer and said complexing agent form an inclusion complex.

Q2 15. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 14, wherein said therapeutic agent is first combined with said polymer to form said particulate composite and said particulate composite and the resulting mixture is then combined with said complexing agent such that said polymer and said complexing agent form an inclusion complex.

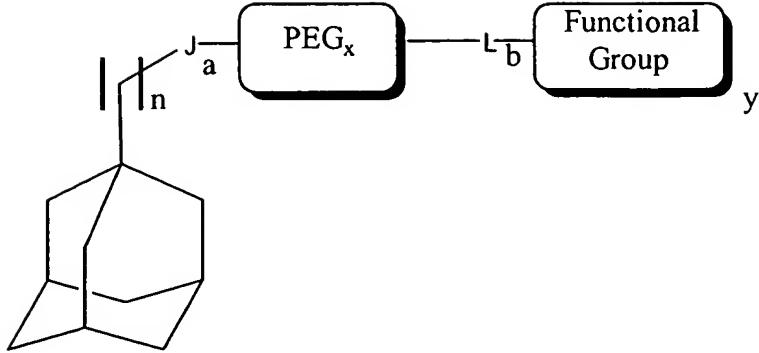
16. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 14, wherein said polymer is first combined with said complexing agent to form an inclusion complex and said inclusion complex is combined with said therapeutic agent such that said polymer and said therapeutic agent form said particulate composite.

Q3 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method composition of claim 14 5, wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of an antibiotic, a steroid, a polynucleotide, small molecule pharmaceutical, a virus, a plasmid, a peptide, a peptide fragment, a chelating agent, a biologically active macromolecule, and mixtures thereof.

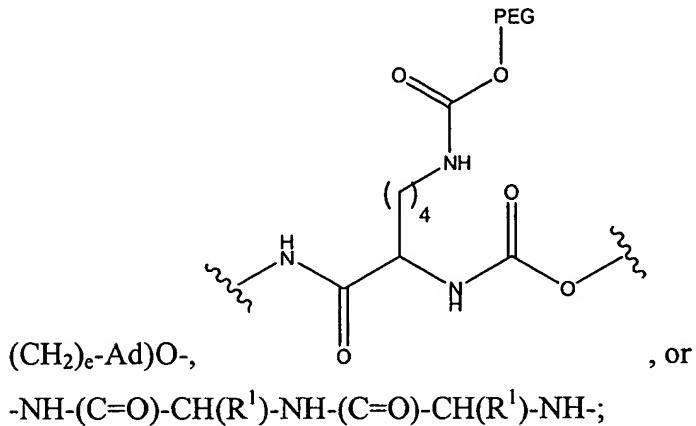
19. (Original) A method composition of claim 18, wherein said therapeutic agent is a polynucleotide.

Q4 20. (Currently Amended) A method composition of claim 14 17, wherein the complexing agent is an adamantane derivative of the formula:



wherein

J is -NH-, -C(=O)NH-CH_d-, -NH-C(=O)-(CH_d)_d-, -CH₂SS-, -C(=O)O-(CH_e)_e-O-P(=O)(O-



Ad is adamantyl;

R¹ is -(CH₂)-CO₂H, an ester or salt thereof; or -(CH_a)_a-CONH₂;

PEG is -O(CH₂CH₂O)_z, where z varies from 2 to 300;

L is H, -NH, -NH-(C=O)-(CH_e)-(C=O)-CH₂-, -S(=O)₂-HC=CH₂-, -SS-, -C(=O)O-, or a carbohydrate residue;

a is 0 or 1;

b is 0 or 1;

d ranges from 0 to 6;

e ranges from 1 to 6;

n ranges from 0 to 6;

y is 0 or 1; and

x is 0 or 1.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein complexing agent comprises at least one functional group and a host/guest moiety that forms an inclusion complex with the polymer.

23. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the at least one functional group includes a group selected from a ligand, a nuclear localization signal, an endosomal release peptide, an endosomal release polymer, or a membrane permeabilization agent.

24. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the at least one functional group includes a moiety that increases the solubility of the composition under biological conditions relative to a composition of the polymer and therapeutic agent alone.

25. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the at least one functional group includes a moiety that stabilizes the composition under biological conditions relative to a composition of the polymer and therapeutic agent alone.

26. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the at least one functional group includes a therapeutic agent reversibly bound to the complexing agent.

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27. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the polymer comprises a host moiety that forms an inclusion complex with a guest moiety of the complexing agent.

28. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the polymer comprises a guest moiety that forms an inclusion complex with a host moiety of the complexing agent.

29. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the complexing agent further comprises a spacer group positioned between the functional group and the host/guest moiety.

30. (New) A method of claim 14, wherein the guest moiety is an adamantyl group and the host moiety is a cyclodextrin moiety.

31. (New) wherein the host/guest of the complexing agent is selected from adamantyl, diadamantyl, naphthyl, cholesterol, cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof.